

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A highway marker device for marking the location of an object located adjacent to  
5 a highway, the device comprising:
  - (a) a coil spring having a first end and a second end, wherein the coil spring is comprised of a plurality of windings around a spring axis;
  - 10 (b) a marker post connected with the first end of the coil spring, wherein the marker post has a post axis and wherein the post axis is substantially perpendicular to the spring axis; and
  - (c) a mounting mechanism for connecting the device with the object such that the coil  
15 spring is substantially restrained from bending about the spring axis.
2. The device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mounting mechanism is comprised of a primary mounting mechanism and wherein the primary mounting mechanism is comprised of a mounting bracket located adjacent to the second end of the coil spring.  
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3. The device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the mounting mechanism is further comprised of a secondary mounting mechanism and wherein the secondary mounting mechanism is axially spaced along the spring axis relative to the primary mounting mechanism so that the primary mounting mechanism and the secondary mounting mechanism together substantially  
25 restrain the coil spring from bending about the spring axis.
4. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the primary mounting mechanism is integrally formed with the coil spring.

5. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the secondary mounting mechanism is comprised of a U-bolt which is sized to surround the coil spring.

6. The device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the secondary mounting mechanism is further comprised of a pair of nuts for connecting the U-bolt with the object.

7. The device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the secondary mounting mechanism is located adjacent to the first end of the coil spring.

10 8. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the marker post is integrally formed with the coil spring.

9. The device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a marker flag attached to the marker post.

15 10. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least a portion of the marker post is brightly coloured in order to enhance its visibility.

11. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least a portion of the marker post is coated with a luminous coating.

20 12. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the device is adapted to be connected with the object so that the spring axis is substantially perpendicular to a direction of travel on the highway.

25 13. The device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the device is adapted to be connected with the object so that the spring axis is substantially horizontal.

14. The device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the plurality of windings of the coil spring are wound such that if the marker post is contacted by a vehicle moving in the direction of travel on the highway, the coil spring will tend to become more tightly wound.

5 15. The device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the mounting bracket is connected with the coil spring such that if the marker post is contacted by a vehicle moving in the direction of travel on the highway, the mounting bracket will tend to move toward the object.

10 16. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the coil spring is comprised of at least 9 windings.

17. The device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the coil spring is comprised of at least 12 windings.

15 18. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the coil spring, the marker post and the mounting bracket are integrally formed from a single piece of steel rod.

19. The device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the steel rod has a diameter of between about 10 millimeters and about 20 millimeters.

20 20. The device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the coil spring has an outer diameter of at least about fifty millimeters.